

Evening Telegraph

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1864.

SPIRIT OF THE NEW YORK PRESS.

SISTER DAVID'S CONFESSION.

The man who knows most intimately and completely the condition of the Southern Confederacy is undoubtedly Jefferson Davis. The man who has the deepest interest in causing that knowledge also is Jefferson Davis, yet it is Jefferson Davis who is the author of the speech which promises to all the world to use the military resources of the Rebellion are well nigh exhausted, and its hopes of success are dimly visible. The Mason speech is perhaps the most extraordinary confession ever put forth by a great criminal before he actually stood upon the scaffold which was to be the fit end of his career.

This speech is so frank and truthful that its authenticity is little disputed by a single Southerner, but it seems no cause for doubt. It is certain Davis has been a traitor to the South, and has spoken there, and that what professes to be a report of his speech appears in the *Mason Telegraph*. The date is so long ago as September 24; there has been abundant time for counterfeiting, but none has been made. We conclude the speech is accurately given in substance.

We know not whether this singular confession will be received with more rage by the Southern or by the Northern Confederates of the South, and the hope of the former is that it will put the political hopes of the latter, rest on the military strength and resources of the Rebellion. Yet Mr. Davis declares that two-thirds of the Rebel troops are deserters, and that many more than eighteen and forty thousand are in the Confederate. In other words, the military chief of the Rebellion is driven to own that the people fall off from his cause, and that the armies are reduced far below the number of those who enlisted.

For if we put the Rebel forces at our hundred thousand men when the summer campaign began, we shall find, by the estimate of Mr. Davis himself, that not more than one hundred and thirty thousand men remain in the field. This number includes the troops here, west and north of Mississippi, and is meant to represent, not the actual but the nominal force of the Rebel armies. What may be the morale of those armies, two-thirds of whom may have deserted in the face of the rebels, we leave to their hopes of victory against forces whom they know to be twice, thrice, four times stronger?

Mr. Davis confesses not only that his armies are two-thirds wasted by desertion, but that there are no men left them. General Grant said, "I am sorry to say that we have buried in the grave to fill the ranks." Mr. Davis confesses it is true. "You have not many men between eighteen and forty-five years." And the President of this great Confederacy, the leading dignitary of the South, is about to appeal to women for support. The chance of persuading his soldiers back into the ranks rests on the delusion of their wives and daughters. Place is to be kept for a boy of eight years old at the solicitation of his mother, and another for a girl of ten years.

Now, the chief of a great army concedes to beg that he may be personally informed by letter concerning deserters! To bring the military necessities of his condition clearly before the people, Mr. Davis tells them that the Mason speech will be his last, and that he will be compelled to defend, if he can, his right to be a traitor to his country. The chance of persuading his soldiers back into the ranks rests on the delusion of their wives and daughters. Place is to be kept for a boy of eight years old at the solicitation of his mother, and another for a girl of ten years.

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The leader of the Rebellion has heretofore solicited the respect of Europe by the decorum of his public speeches and State papers. It is deportment he will have the rival of Mr. Torreywood, and in "gentlemanlike" conduct he will prove his equal to Mr. Lincoln. Yet this heretic avenger now permits himself to talk of "Butter the Beast," with whom no Commissioners of Exchange hold intercourse, and indulges in a cheap star about Butler's effort to gain him a white wash in the eyes of the world.

What has become of Mr. Davis' "harrowing presence?" Why are they superceded by a passionate explosion of ill-temper?

What will General McClellan say now for the wife of a traitor or whose protection of manners has once vehemently asserted to Colonel Meade, of Kentucky?

Mr. Davis defends himself against the charge of neglecting Georgia. He avers that they were no better off than the people of Georgia, and as regards the march of Roberdeau's army to Atlanta would have been the destruction of Richmond. He announces, in substance, that hereafter each section of the Confederacy must protect itself as best it can, believe that "if one-half of the Rebels here are lost, we are still safe, and quite ready to meet the enemy in retreat." The empty boast that he shall be driven back, is in pitiful contrast with the exhibit of military deficiencies which the rest of Mr. Davis' harangue presents.

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